

first amino acid of mature TACI to the transmembrane domain of the N-terminal portion of TACI. The ligand-binding region of TACI is a sub-fragment of the N-terminal fragment corresponding to the extracellular domain. One particular embodiment of the extracellular domain comprises amino acid residues 1 to 166, inclusive, of SEQ ID NO:2. In alternative embodiments, fragments of TACI comprise amino acid residues 1 to 166, inclusive, of SEQ ID NO:2 with one or more conservative substitutions (WO 98/36361 at page 18, line 16 to page 19, line 18 and page 33, line 33 to page 34, line 12). --

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, beginning at line 27 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The terms "TACI-L" and "TACI ligand" are used interchangeably to define the member of the TNF ligand family disclosed by WO 98/18921 and refer to a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:4 or homologous analogs thereof (WO 98/18921 at page 7, line 25 to page 8, line 13). TACI-L is also disclosed as "TL5" in EP 0869180A1 and as "63954" in WO 98/27114. The full-length TACI-L comprises an extracellular domain, a transmembrane domain, and a cytoplasmic domain. Although the exact location of the extracellular, transmembrane, and cytoplasmic domains may differ slightly due to different analytical criteria for identifying the functional domains, the range of amino acids 1 to 46 generally represents the intracellular domain; amino acids 47 to 72 represent the transmembrane domain, and amino acids 73 to 285, the extracellular domain (WO 98/18921 at page 8, lines 2-13). --

In the Claims:

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

15. (Twice Amended) A method of screening a test compound comprising the steps of:

- a. forming a composition comprising
 - (i) a protein, comprising a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2;
 - (b) a fragment of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2; or
 - (c) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid sequence that is at least 75% identical to SEQ ID NO:1;wherein said polypeptides and fragments of (i) (a), (b) and (c) bind the extracellular domain of SEQ ID NO:4;
 - (ii) a protein, comprising a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4;